

## CHAPTER 7. RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATION

### Introduction

During the investigations, 200 m on the north wall and 200 m on the south wall of the 280-m lateral ditch were cleaned, photographed, and profiled for a total of 400 m recorded. Any features that were exposed in the ditch were fully excavated and the profiles shown are those which were displayed in the wall of the trench. Additional features that intruded into these were also excavated. There were 17 features exposed in the walls, and two additional features that intruded into wall features. Units were placed over the exposed features and then excavated to the surface of the features. The features were mapped, photographed, and excavated. In addition, three block trenches were excavated perpendicular to the lateral ditch on the south side. There were 27 features exposed in the block trenches. During the excavation of site 31SK15, 71 features were discovered and mapped, and 32 of these were fully excavated or sampled. Posthole features were numbered consecutively within each unit. Since the areas of the site outside the lateral ditch were not in danger of being disturbed, only a sample of the exposed features were excavated. The features that were excavated were selected to provide a representative sample of the feature types present. Of the excavated features, 24 were numbered features and 8 were postholes. Features within the block trenches were excavated by halves, and the profiles shown are those. Postholes were sometimes excavated completely and the illustrated profiles are cross-sections. This was necessary due to the small diameters of the postholes. The core area of the site is shown in Figure 29.

### Feature Descriptions

**Feature 1.** This feature was first identified in the north wall of the lateral ditch at grid location W121 (Figures 30, 31, and 32). The southern half of the pit had been disturbed by the ditch excavation. Feature 1 was a large, deep storage pit with relatively straight sides and contained three zones of fill. The uppermost zone of fill was a mottled dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loam mixed with dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) clay. It created a fairly sterile cap with few artifacts or ecofacts. This zone covered a more organic zone (Zone 2) of dark yellowish brown loam (10YR3/6). Mixed with the loam in Zone 2 were quantities of ash, calcined bone, charcoal, and fired clay. Several pieces of pottery were recovered from Zone 2. This zone appeared to represent a secondary deposit of hearth cleanings. Beneath this fill was Zone 3, a friable brown (10YR4/3) loam that also contained ceramics. Zone 3 did not contain the fired clay and ash seen in Zone 2. During the excavation of Zone 3, it became apparent that what was originally mapped as the northern edge of Feature 1, was actually a separate basin-shaped feature that had been intruded into by Feature 1. The fill of this second feature could not be distinguished from Zone 3 of Feature 1. The newly identified basin was designated Feature 18.

Feature 1 contained Oldtown ceramics in all three zones, as well as a Dan River sherd in Zone 2. Quartz, metavolcanic, and chert flakes were present throughout the feature. Zones 2 and 3 contained fire-cracked rock as well as animal bone and daub. A small shell disk bead and a clay bead were recovered from Zone 2.

**Feature 2.** Most of this pit was disturbed by the lateral ditch excavation, but what remained intact appeared to be a basin. It may have been part of Feature 17, which was located across the lateral ditch. Feature 2 was located directly west of Feature 1 (Figures 30 and 33). The fill was a dark grayish brown (10YR4/2), moderately compact loam with few artifacts. The intact portion of the feature was 1.2 m wide along the northern wall of the lateral ditch and was 0.3 m deep. It contained no diagnostic artifacts.

**Feature 3.** The southern half of this feature was disturbed by the lateral ditch excavation. It appeared to be a large, round posthole with a depth of 0.45 m and a diameter of 0.25 m (Figures 34 and 35), but was given a feature number when the trench profile was drawn as it was not possible to define the feature before it was excavated. This was also true of Feature 5. Oldtown ceramics as well as quartz, jasper, and metavolcanic lithics were present in the fill. This feature was located at grid location W130 and was flanked by smaller postholes to the east and west. These smaller postholes were 0.06 and 0.07 m deep. The postholes had also been disturbed by the lateral ditch. The fill in Feature 3 was a brown (10YR4/3) loam mottled with dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loamy clay.

**Feature 4.** Feature 4 was a small, shallow basin first identified in the northern wall of the lateral ditch at grid location W131.8 (Figures 36 and 37). The feature was basin-shaped with sloping sides, except for the west wall, which was vertical. At least half of this feature had been destroyed by the ditch excavation, and the intact northern portion exposed in the ditch wall was looted prior to the beginning of the archaeological salvage project. This feature had a single zone of fill, which was brown (10YR4.3) clayey loam mottled with dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) clay. Oldtown ceramics, metavolcanic and quartz lithics, and some charcoal were recovered from the excavated part of the feature. This shallow basin was 0.8 m wide at the profile and 0.20 m deep. A shallow posthole (PH 6) was located beside this feature. The posthole was 0.08 m deep.

**Feature 5.** This large posthole was identified in the north wall of the lateral ditch at W134.5 (Figures 38 and 39). The intact portion of the posthole was 0.3 m deep and 0.2 m wide. The lateral ditch destroyed more than half of the feature. No diagnostic artifacts were present in the dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) silty loam fill. This unit (W134.15-W134.75) also contained four unexcavated postholes that were part of a circular post structure, designated Structure 1.

**Feature 7.** This feature, a concentration of brown (7.5YR4/4) silty loam, was located in the western end of the project area at grid location W152.8 (Figures 40 and 41). The southern edge of this feature was destroyed during the creation of the lateral ditch. During excavation, this charcoal stain branched at the bottom and was determined to be a burned tree root.

**Feature 8.** This was a portion of a possible posthole in the north wall of the lateral ditch (Figure 18). It was not excavated as only a very small portion was visible.

**Feature 9.** When mapping the north profile of the lateral ditch, researchers identified a dark stain just west of Feature 4. This stain was designated Feature 9. When the inset was excavated to expose the tops of Features 4 and 9, the subsoil in the area of Feature 9 was sterile

and undisturbed. Feature 9 was not a pit feature and may have been a slight depression in the subsoil or an organically rich area of the possible buried A-horizon, Zone 3.

**Feature 10.** This feature was a shallow basin that extended into the northern profile of the excavation unit W119.5-W123.6 (Figures 30 and 42). The portion of the feature exposed in the excavation unit was excavated. The feature had a single zone of dark brown (10YR3/3) loam which contained Oldtown ceramics, some in large pieces; metavolcanic and quartz lithics, including a metavolcanic triangular point; calcined bone; a clay bead; daub; and plentiful pieces of charcoal.

**Feature 11.** This shallow basin was adjacent to Feature 18 and had a squared planview (Figures 30 and 43). It was 0.5 m wide and 0.1 m deep. Few artifacts were recovered from its dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam fill. One rhyolite spokeshave was present. The boundary between Features 11 and 18 was obscured due to the similarity of the feature fill. It is possible that these two pits were contemporaneous and may have been filled at the same time.

**Features 6, 12, 13, and 14.** These features were all located within Unit W119.5-W123.6 on the north side of the lateral ditch (see Figure 30). This unit was opened to expose Features 1 and 2, which were visible in the lateral ditch profile. This exposed a high concentration of features which had not been disturbed by the ditch excavation. At the top of the subsoil, the fill in all four features was dark brown (10YR3/3) loam. Features 6, 13, and 14 were only partially visible and extended into the unit walls. Feature 13 was amorphous, while Feature 12 was oval, and Features 6 and 14 were probably round or oval. None of these features was excavated.

**Feature 15.** This large storage pit with sloping sides was located on the south side of the lateral ditch at grid location W137.8 (Figures 44, 45, and 46). The northern edge of this feature was disturbed by the ditch excavation, but it appears to have been round in planview. This pit was filled with two zones of soil. The uppermost zone was 0.03 m deep and consisted of a very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) loam with some charcoal and burnt clay. The second, lower zone was a dark brown (10YR3/3) loam with charcoal and burnt clay. Ceramics from both zones of this feature included Oldtown and Dan River types. Metavolcanic, chert, quartz, crystal quartz, and jasper lithics were present, and some of them had been heat altered. Daub was recovered from Zone 1, and Zone 2 yielded four clay pipe stem fragments and a clay bead fragment. Animal bone and mussel shell were present in both zones.

**Feature 16.** Feature 16 was a cylindrical storage pit with straight sides and a flat bottom found at W127 in the south wall of the lateral ditch (Figures 47 and 48). Only a very small portion of the northern edge of the feature had been disturbed by the lateral ditch, so it was possible to excavate almost the entire feature. Projections of the size of Structure 1 indicate that this storage pit would have been located just inside the eastern perimeter of the house. During excavation of this pit, two fill zones were encountered. The uppermost zone of fill was 0.24 m deep and consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) loam. More artifacts were recovered from this feature than from any other at the site. Zone 1 contained Oldtown ceramics and quartz, quartzite, and metavolcanic lithics. The interface between this zone and the lower zone was basin shaped, which indicates that the lower zone slumped over time.

At the top of the subsoil, Zone 2 appeared as a collar of dark brown (10YR3/3) loam around Zone 1 (Figure 49). Zone 2 also lay beneath Zone 1 and comprised the rest of the feature fill. This lower zone was much more organic than Zone 1 and contained mostly Oldtown ceramics, although a few Dan River sherds were also present. Several ground, ceramic disks were present, as well as a portion of an unfired vessel, a pipe stem, and one nearly complete (after mending) ceramic pipe. Lithics were of rhyolite, quartz, crystal quartz, quartzite, chert, and metavolcanic materials. Several undiagnostic triangular point fragments were recovered. Two steatite sherds, many fire-cracked quartzite cobbles, and a broken groundstone celt were recovered. Poorly preserved animal bone was present as well.

A large  $^{14}\text{C}$  sample was taken from Zone 2. The radiocarbon age of the sample was 270  $\pm$  40 B.P. A concentration of fired clay was present in Level 3 of Zone 2, and a portion of an unfired pottery vessel was also found in Zone 2. The feature fill peeled away from the walls such that the original digging scars on the walls of the feature could be seen (Figure 50).

Several sherds from levels 2-6 of Zone 1 in this feature could be refit. These mending sherds indicate that all of Zone 1 was deposited in a single episode. No cross-mends were identified between Zone 1 and Zone 2 of the feature. In addition, pieces of Vessel #16 were recovered from the uppermost zone of Feature 15 and from level 6 of Zone 2 in Feature 16. These two features were situated 9.3 m apart (Figure 29). These two features were apparently in use, or at least abandoned and refilled, at the same time.

**Feature 17.** This feature was another large pit, probably round, with sloping sides (Figures 51, 52, and 53). The northern portion of this feature was disturbed by excavation of the lateral ditch, and it appears that over half of the feature was destroyed. It was located at W123.1 in the south wall. Feature 17 was one of two features that were partially looted while the lateral ditch was open prior to the beginning of the salvage archaeological project. The southwest quadrant of the feature was looted.

Three fill zones were identified during excavation. Zone 1 was a strong brown (7.5YR4/6) mottled loam that contained ceramics, mainly Oldtown with a few Dan River sherds; animal bone; quartz, chert, and metavolcanic lithics; charcoal; and daub.

Zone 2 was a strong brown (7.5YR4/6) mottled loam with fewer and smaller pieces of Oldtown and Dan River ceramics. It contained quartz, crystal quartz, chert, and metavolcanic lithics, including a nondiagnostic quartz triangular point. Mixed in the fill were pieces of calcined bone, a fired clay concentration, and charcoal.

Zone 3 was an olive brown (2.5Y4/4) clay loam mottled with subsoil. This lowest zone contained less charcoal and calcined bone than Zone 2, but had more ceramics. The identifiable sherds were all of the Oldtown series. Quartz and metavolcanic lithics were recovered. It formed a collar around Zone 2 and went beneath it as well. Feature 17 was probably located just outside the east perimeter of Structure 1.

**Feature 18.** Feature 18 was a shallow, round basin partially obscured on the surface by Feature 1 (Figures 30 and 43). It consisted of one zone of dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam that contained a small amount of charcoal and fired clay, and a few pieces of Oldtown, New River, and possibly Dan River ceramics. Lithics were chert and quartz. A portion of this feature was visible in the north wall of the lateral ditch, but most of Feature 18 was disturbed by the excavation of Feature 1. At the top of the subsoil, Feature 18 was mapped as a collar of darker soil around Feature 1 and the fill of Feature 18 could not be distinguished from Zone 2 of

Feature 1. As excavation of Feature 1 proceeded, it became apparent that Feature 18 was a separate basin-shaped feature that had been intruded into by Feature 1. Feature 18 was 1.60 m in diameter and the intact portion of the feature was 0.21 m deep. Feature 11 abutted this feature to the north, but because the fill of both features was the same, it was not possible to determine whether one intruded into the other or if both were filled at the same time.

**Features 19 and 25.** These two features were initially mapped in the south profile of the lateral ditch as a single feature. They were contained within Unit W109.5-W111.3 (Figures 54 and 55). When the excavation unit was opened above them, it became apparent that they were separated by 0.15 m of subsoil. Both features were shallow, oval basins with few artifacts besides lumps of burnt clay. No diagnostic artifacts were present. Feature 19 contained larger lumps and the fill was a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/6) loam mixed with subsoil. Feature 25 was also filled with dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loam, but flecks of charcoal were present in this feature. Both of these features were heavily disturbed by rodents. Feature 19 was 0.27 m deep and had a maximum diameter of 0.60 m. Feature 25 was 0.40 m deep and had a maximum diameter of 0.53 m. This feature was truncated by the lateral ditch, and its original diameter was probably larger than what remained intact in the south wall of the lateral ditch. These features are similar to another pair of features situated on the western edge of the feature concentration (Features 21 and 26).

**Feature 20.** Feature 20 was a very deep, modern posthole located at the western end of the project area (Figure 56). The lateral ditch bisected this feature and approximately half of it remained intact in the south wall of the ditch. The sidewalls were very well defined and they tapered to a point at the bottom. Because this feature was thought to be modern, only the portion of the posthole intact below the floor of the lateral ditch was profiled and excavated. The total depth of the posthole was 1.02 m.

**Features 21 and 26.** These features were adjacent to each other on the south side of the lateral ditch, but did not overlap (Figures 57, 58, and 59). They were contained in Unit W152.5-W154.1. Feature 21 was disturbed by the lateral ditch excavation, but Feature 26 was located south of the ditch and was undamaged. At least half of Feature 21 was removed during excavation of the lateral ditch, but the intact portion indicated that it might have been round in planview. Feature 26 was round. Both features were shallow basins with sloping sides, although Feature 26 was more conical than Feature 21. The fill in Feature 21 was a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loam with charcoal and burnt clay bits. The fill in Feature 26 was a dark brown (10YR3/3) silty loam that contained large pieces of burnt clay and bits of charcoal. No diagnostic artifacts were present. Feature 26 was bisected and only the southern half of this feature was excavated.

A feature with a zone of fill similar to that in Feature 26 was excavated at the Fredricks site (31OR231), located in Orange County, North Carolina. This feature, Feature 59, was a conical pit with a flat bottom. It contained four zones, the third one “a layer of fired clay chunks and slabs” mixed with soil. The pieces of fired clay were curved and smooth on one side and rough on the other. These clay chunks were interpreted as the remains of a clay-lined hearth that had been broken up and thrown in the pit (Ward 1988:24-25). The fired clay chunks in Feature 26 were not intact enough to determine whether they refit to form identifiable hearth fragments,

but the evidence from 31OR231 suggests a potential interpretation of Features 21 and 26 at 31SK15.

**Feature 22.** This feature was probably a tree root (Figure 60). It was identified in the south wall of the lateral ditch at grid location W181.7, on the western edge of the archaeological site. It contained no artifacts and was outlined by a light, fine sand “halo” commonly seen around tree roots.

**Features 23 and 24.** These two features were partially exposed in Unit W126.4-W128, which was excavated to expose Feature 16 (see Figure 47). Neither feature was excavated.

**Features 27, 32, and 33.** These features were uncovered in Block Trench 1 (Figure 51). Selected features within the Block Trenches were bisected and only one half was excavated (Figures 61 and 62). Feature 27 was a large roundish stain with diffuse edges. It was only 0.10 m deep, and was 1.20 m in diameter. The fill was a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/3) silty loam. Few artifacts were recovered from this feature. It was intruded into by Feature 32, which was determined to be a 0.51-m-deep posthole that was 0.30 m wide at the surface and tapered to 0.10 m at the bottom. These features were bisected and the southwest portions were excavated. Feature 33 was a shallow posthole that was identified in the bottom of Feature 27. It was bisected and was 0.03 m deep and 0.15 m in diameter. The fill was the same as that of Features 27 and 32. No diagnostic artifacts were present in any of these features.

**Feature 28.** This feature was identified as a probable tree taproot in Block Trench 1 and was not excavated (see Figure 51).

**Feature 29.** Feature 29 was a 0.36-m-deep posthole that contained abundant charcoal in its dark brown (10YR3/3) silty loam fill (Figures 51 and 63). It was located in Block Trench 1. The posthole was bisected and the south half was excavated. Jasper flakes were present.

**Feature 30.** This feature was a shallow, oval basin which contained calcined bone, charcoal, and burnt clay in the dark brown (10YR3/3) silty loam fill (Figures 51 and 64). The feature was bisected and the northern half was removed. The few artifacts present included an Oldtown sherd, quartz lithics, and daub. It was 0.08 m deep and 0.72 m in diameter at its widest point. The fill in this feature appeared to represent secondary deposition of hearth cleanings.

**Feature 31.** This feature extended into the west wall of Block Trench 1, and only the exposed portion was excavated (Figures 51 and 65). The majority of the feature was contained within soil Zone 3 of the unit, and it extended only 0.02 m into the subsoil. One zone of dark brown (10YR3/3) silty loam was identified. Numerous flecks of burnt clay and charcoal were present in the fill, but few artifacts were recovered. Oldtown ceramics were present. This feature was probably a shallow basin and may have been filled with hearth cleanings.

**Feature 34.** Feature 34 was an area of darker soil in the northeast corner of Block Trench 3 (Figure 66). It extended into the east wall of the unit. This feature was first identified at the top of soil Zone 2 and, therefore, it postdated plow agriculture and was more recent than

the aboriginal occupation of the site. No artifacts were recovered from the top of this feature, which was not excavated below the top of the subsoil.

**Postholes.** Five of the postholes that were part of Structure 1 in Block Trench 2 were excavated (Figures 67 and 68). They range from 0.16-0.30 m in diameter and 0.16-0.30 m in depth.

## Feature Types

Many of the features in the central part of the site have obviously been truncated by the plow. It is clear from the ditch profile that there was a slight rise at one time where the majority of the site lies. This explains why the features are so shallow in Block Trench 1 (see Figure 28). This topography may be explained by the ridge and swale morphology previously discussed in the geological results section. Seramur notes that the ridges and swales formed parallel to the stream channel and that the paleosol observed in the lateral ditch (Zone 3) and the plow zone above (Zone 2) were eroded from the ridge crests. Zone 3 had been disturbed by the plow as evidenced by shallow plow scars below the zone. However, this zone had not been intensively plowed, as revealed by the appearance of *in situ* sherds in the zone between the scars.

In his dissertation, Ward (1980:187-208) identified six kinds of features by function at site 31SK1a. This site was occupied several times between A.D. 1000 and 1700 (Eastman, in preparation). There has been little data specifically collected for the protohistoric period; thus, Ward's data is used here as a basic framework for identifying feature function. Ward's feature types include storage pits, borrow pits, refuse pits, roasting pits, clay hearths, and unused burials.

*Storage pits* were circular with straight or bell-shaped sides. They ranged in depth from "no more than a foot to over four feet" below the plow zone (Ward 1980:189). Most had been refilled with trash, usually in several episodes. Artifact density was generally high when they had been refilled in this fashion. The fact that the layered fill had no unconformities due to erosion or natural disturbance suggested to Ward that the pits were covered when they were no longer being used for storage. They ranged from a little over 2 feet to 4.5 feet in diameter. Some were found inside structures, others outside. This was probably due to differences in function, according to Ward.

*Borrow pits* may have been indicative of clay mining activities for the large amount of daub that was needed for house construction. Fill was generally homogenous with little cultural debris, as the pits appeared to have been filled back in with any available soil. They varied in diameter, depth, and shape, but could be up to 6 feet long, 3.5 feet wide, and 0.5 foot deep.

*Roasting pits* were filled with distinct, rich organic food remains and were large, shallow, round or oval features. They were probably used to roast food and may also have been used as kilns, as many sherds have been found in them as well. These pits were seldom over 0.7 foot in depth and were at least 4 feet across.

*Refuse pits* were usually smaller than storage pits and were refilled in one episode. They were circular with insloping or straight sides and were usually less than 3 feet across and less than 1 foot deep. Ward states that many of them may have originally been dug as borrow pits.

*Clay hearths* for the most part had been destroyed by the plow at site 31SK1a; however, several burned clay areas were found. The features were circular and most of them measured just over 2 feet. One of the hearths still had the remains of a collared basin. Three of the four hearths found were located at or near the center of house patterns.

Features which resembled burial pits in morphology yet contained no human remains were also identified. This was probably due to poor preservation of the bone.

Storage pit sizes varied through time, with maximum depths generally increasing through time (Eastman, in preparation): **The** features have been truncated by plow disturbance, however, and there is no way of knowing exactly what percentage of each feature is still present.

Table 2. Ranges of Storage Pits of Various Phases.

Phase	Length (meters)	Width (meters)	Depth (meters)
Uwharrie	.55-1.37 (n= 13)	.46-1.31 (n=11)	.28-.56 (n=13)
Dan River	.66-1.49 (n=10)	.66-1.39 (n=10)	.34-.71 (n=11)
Early Sauratown	1.04-1.10 (n=3)	.90-1.09 (n=3)	.40-.90 (n=3)
Middle Sauratown	.64-1.46 (n=9)	.69-1.14 (n=8)	.22-1.14 (n=9)
Late Sauratown	.70-1.45 (n=18)	.62-1.37 (n=18)	.30-1.14 (n=18)

The larger pits at site 31SK15, which may be considered storage pits are Features 1 and 16. These were probably both circular, although Feature 16 is the only one that can be definitely assigned this shape as Feature 1 had been disturbed by the lateral ditch. Feature 1 was 1.50 m across at the lateral ditch profile and 0.51 m deep with relatively straight to sloping sides. It had several zones, which may constitute different filling episodes, and a large number of artifacts. Feature 16 was 1.2 m in diameter, and 0.65 m deep. It also contained a large number of artifacts and had straight sides. Feature 16 appears to have been within the house structure, whereas Feature 1 was 5 m outside of it.

Features 15 and 17 are also large, probably circular pits that were disturbed by the lateral ditch.

Feature 15, although much wider than the dimensions given by Ward for Upper Sauratown, may be a refuse pit as opposed to a storage pit as it has more sloping sides, is shallow, and is composed of basically one zone. It, like Feature 17, is also wider than storage pits from Upper Sauratown. Zone 1 is very shallow (0.03 m) and may be slump that filled in when the contents of the pit settled. The feature is 1.90 m at the lateral ditch profile, and 0.28 m deep. Feature 15 is located approximately 1 m from the house structure.

Feature 17 does not seem to fit into any of Ward's categories. It seems a bit large in diameter for a storage pit based on the above table, although its depth falls within the known range. It was 2.00 m across at the lateral ditch profile and 0.36 m deep. It did have stratified deposits and contained large numbers of ceramics as well as charcoal, calcined bone, and a fired clay lens in Zone 2. The stratified nature of the feature disqualifies it as a refuse pit. It also did not contain the amount of food remains one might expect with a roasting pit. Feature 17 is located approximately 1 m from the house structure. Its function has not been determined.



## Structure 1

The structure identified at site 31SK15 was first noted in Unit W134.15-W134.75 in the north wall of the lateral ditch as five postholes (Figure 38). Block Trench 2 was placed on the south side of the ditch in an attempt to follow the line of posts discovered in the earlier unit. The line continued in Block Trench 2, and 16 postholes associated with the structure were located in the trench. Enough postholes were visible to enable an estimation of the arc or diameter of the house (Figure 69). The round structure would have been approximately 9 m in diameter, and the posts averaged 19 cm apart. Several of the excavated postholes slanted such that the posts would have been tilted in towards the structure. It appears that these features may represent a cluster of features associated with a single, isolated house. Feature 16, a storage pit, was probably inside of the structure, as were features 3, 4, 5, 23, 24, as well as other postholes (Figure 69).

Fifteenth-century and seventeenth-century round, post, Siouan house structures have been excavated at the Wall site (31OR11) and at Upper Sauratown, respectively. Most of the late seventeenth-century structures at the Fredricks site (31OR231) used wall-trench construction and were more oval or subrectangular than round. Other oval structures from the mid-seventeenth century were excavated at the Mitchum site (31CH452) and at Lower Sauratown (31RK1). Rectangular wall-trench structures were excavated at the seventeenth-century Jenrette site (31OR231a). The latter have been found more often in Cherokee occupied areas, where single-post construction was used as opposed to wall-trench construction with the exception of the entryways (Ward and Davis 1993).

At the Wall site, 10 round structures averaged a floor area of 34.15 m<sup>2</sup>, with a range of 26.38-45.61 m<sup>2</sup>. Two oval houses at the Fredricks site had areas of 10.22 m<sup>2</sup> and 19.51 m<sup>2</sup>, as well as a rectangular structure with an area of 24.25 m<sup>2</sup>. An oval Mitchum site structure had a floor area of 26.94 m<sup>2</sup> (Petherick 1987).

Ten circular houses had been discovered at site 31SK1a through 1976, averaging 25 feet across. The range was from 6 to 9.2 m in diameter, with postholes rarely more than 15 centimeters apart. Two rectangular structures were also identified, although these were not classified as houses (Ward 1980).

House size at Upper Sauratown (site 31SK1a) ranged from 5.5 to 6.5 m in diameter during the late Prehistoric period, from 9.4 to 10 m during the Middle Sauratown phase, and from 6.5 to 9.4 m during the Late Sauratown phase (McManus 1997).

Based on the incomplete exposure of Structure 1, it would appear that the house is approximately 9 m in diameter. Although little information is available on houses from the protohistoric period, Structure 1 at 31SK15 appears to fit well with the circular houses at 31SK1a.

## Radiocarbon Dates

Two charcoal samples were submitted from Zone 2 of Features 15 and 16. The forms and correspondence between Coastal Carolina Research and Beta Analytic, Inc. are included as Appendix D.

The radiocarbon age of the sample from Feature 15 (Beta-105449) was 330 ± 50 B.P. and the calibrated intercepts are cal A.D. 1525, cal A.D. 1560, and cal A.D. 1630. The 1 sigma range (68 percent probability) around these intercepts is cal A.D. 1485 to 1650. The 2 sigma (95 percent probability) range is cal A.D. 1450 to 1665. This absolute date range corresponds very

well with the proposed Early Sauratown Phase (A.D. 1450 to 1620) designation for the site indicated by the ceramic analysis.

The radiocarbon age of the sample from Feature 16 (Beta-105450) was  $270 \pm 40$  B.P. The intercept of the sample is cal A.D. 1650 and the 1-sigma range (68 percent probability) around this intercept is cal A.D. 1640 to 1665. The 2 sigma range (95 percent probability) has four date ranges: cal A.D. 1515 to 1585; cal A.D. 1625 to 1675; cal A.D. 1775 to 1800; and cal A.D. 1945 to 1950. The sixteenth- and seventeenth- century ranges overlap with the 2 sigma range from Beta-105449. The earliest range, cal A.D. 1515 to 1585, accounts for the greatest percent of the probability and makes the most sense in terms of the archaeological evidence recovered from the site. Also, as mentioned above, sherds from vessel #16 cross-mended between features 16 and 17, further indicating that the features were contemporaneous. As no European trade goods were recovered from features at 31SK15, it is unlikely that the site was occupied during the mid-seventeenth-century range, cal A.D. 1625 to 1675.

The calibrated radiocarbon results indicate that the site was occupied during the protohistoric Early Sauratown Phase, probably during the sixteenth century.